2	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA AT CHARLESTON
3	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	IN RE: ETHICON, INC., PELVIC REPAIR MDL NO. SYSTEM PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION 2:12-MD-2327
9	
LO	
L1	
L2	
L3	TELEPHONIC MOTIONS HEARING
L 4	May 14, 2013
L5	
L6	BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHERYL A. EIFERT MAGISTRATE JUDGE
L7	
L8	
L9	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1 **APPEARANCES** 2 For the Plaintiffs: 3 MR. THOMAS P. CARTMELL Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP 4740 Grand Avenue, Suite 300 5 Kansas City, MO 64112 6 MR. BRYAN F. AYLSTOCK 7 Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz, PLLC 17 East Main Street, Suite 200 8 Pensacola, FL 32502 9 MS. RENEE BAGGETT 10 Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Suite 200, 17 East Main Street 11 Pensacola, FL 32502 12 13 14 For the Defendants: 15 MR. DAVID B. THOMAS 16 Guthrie & Thomas, PLLC 500 Lee Street, East 17 Suite 800, P.O. Box 3394 Charleston, WV 25333-3394 18 19 MR. PHILIP J. COMBS 20 Thomas, Combs & Spann, PLLC P.O. Box 3824 21 Charleston, WV 25338 22 23 24 25

1 APPEARANCES (Continued) 2 For the Defendants: 3 MR. BENJAMIN M. WATSON Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Cannada, PLLC Renaissance at Colony Park 5 1020 Highland Colony Parkway Suite 1400 6 Ridgeland, MS 39157 7 MR. CHAD R. HUTCHINSON 8 Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Cannada, PLLC Renaissance at Colony Park 9 1020 Highland Colony Parkway 10 Suite 1400 Ridgeland, MS 39157 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 Court Reporter: Lisa A. Cook, RPR-RMR-CRR-FCRR 20 (304)347 - 319821 lisa_cook@wvsd.uscourts.gov 22 23 Proceedings recorded on an audio machine and transcribed with the use of computer-aided transcription 24 25

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Hello. Can you tell me
- 3 who all is on the phone, please?
- 4 MR. CARTMELL: Tom Cartmell.
- 5 MR. ALYSTOCK: Bryan Alystock is here, Your Honor.
- 6 MS. BAGGETT: Renee Baggett.
- 7 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. David
- 8 Thomas. On the phone with me is Ben Watson from Butler
- 9 Snow; Chad Hutchinson from Butler Snow; and Phil Combs from
- 10 Thomas Combs.
- 11 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right, great.
- 12 Okay. I have read both of the briefs that have been
- 13 filed. And it looks to me as though there is even some
- 14 disagreement as to what's outstanding.
- So, let me ask the plaintiffs to start off since it's
- 16 their motion to compel and tell me -- what topics do you
- 17 still have disagreement about?
- MR. CARTMELL: Your Honor, this is Tom Cartmell.
- 19 I apologize, first of all. I'm on a cell phone. I'm
- 20 traveling and in a parking lot at, at Dunkin' Donuts. So,
- 21 if you can't hear me, just let me know.
- But I did read the response and I do believe that there
- 23 were documents that, that were produced after we filed our
- 24 motion. But I do think that on -- and, of course, we have
- 25 not had a chance to, obviously, get and see the documents

- 1 that were produced today and, and Friday.
- But I, I do believe that with respect to the SOPs,
- 3 which is A, and the design history file testimony, I think
- 4 there's still -- I think there are maybe some disagreements
- 5 about what is outstanding. But from our perspective, I do
- 6 believe that most of these still have issues outstanding.
- 7 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. So, the topics,
- 8 then, that -- the topics that I have down here as, as having
- 9 some disagreements would be A, B, C, I, S, and KK. Is that
- 10 correct? A, B, C, I, S, and KK?
- 11 MR. CARTMELL: I think on C, members of the
- 12 product development team, there's, there's an issue about
- 13 whether or not the witness will be able to testify related
- 14 to that versus just a production of a list.
- 15 On B, project names for the device, the issue's the
- 16 same, I believe.
- 17 I think patents maybe there is not an issue, which is
- 18 E.
- 19 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. I, I tell you
- 20 what I'm looking at. I'm looking at Exhibit A that was
- 21 attached to the deposition notice. And I am looking at the
- 22 deposition subject matter.
- 23 I have A as being the SOPs; B as being the design
- 24 history file; C as being the members of the product
- 25 development team. I would be the project names. S would be

- 1 patents. And KK would be design controls and validation.
- 2 So, those are the letters that I'm using. Are you
- 3 using a different set of letters?
- 4 MR. CARTMELL: I think I was looking at the
- 5 response from the defense. I apologize. But, yes, I'll use
- 6 those letters. I apologize.
- 7 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. So, starting with
- 8 A, which is the SOPs, you believe there are still some
- 9 outstanding issues. Is that correct?
- MR. CARTMELL: Yes.
- 11 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right. Tell me what
- 12 the issues are.
- 13 MR. CARTMELL: Well, we -- if I can just give you
- 14 a little bit of history and clarify, Your Honor, because I
- am a little concerned based on, you know, the response that,
- 16 that I read that there may be, you know, some feeling that
- 17 we have not met our, our obligation to meet and confer.
- And I want to be, you know -- you know, this is the
- 19 first motion for, to compel that we have filed, and we did
- 20 not take it lightly at all. And I want to be very clear
- 21 that before we filed our motion, and especially with respect
- 22 to the Standard Operating Procedures, we had never been told
- 23 that those procedures would be produced to us before the
- 24 deposition. We didn't know that. And I now know that
- 25 they've done that.

- I will tell you that we, we cannot have those
- 2 downloaded in time, Crivella West has told us, for this
- 3 deposition.
- 4 And, you know, as far as sort of the background, this
- 5 started in July of last year with our request for these
- 6 SOPs. In January as we were serving our regulatory and our
- 7 design and development 30(b)(6) and then realizing that the
- 8 SOPs with the date and revision history was not there. We
- 9 then met and conferred over and over again.
- 10 And the way that sort of things have happened is
- 11 they've told us that they will produce Standard Operating
- 12 Procedures -- or, or what they told us is they'd produce us
- 13 an index.
- And we got that index. It was attached to this motion.
- 15 I responded to it. I was told that that was a partial list
- of Standard Operating Procedures, and that it only included
- 17 some of the procedures. And it did include, I think, a
- 18 thousand procedures.
- And we took the time to send it to our experts and, you
- 20 know, try to pare it down for them. We never told them that
- 21 we believed that, you know, we should not get the specific
- 22 Standard Operating Procedures that were requested in the
- 23 design notice. And to this day, we have never received any
- 24 of those, of those.
- I guess now they are in this production that we will

- 1 not get until after the deposition has started. So, we
- 2 don't know exactly what's there, although we have been --
- 3 the way we have been doing it -- because we kept saying,
- 4 "Look, we don't want to happen what happened with the Lin,
- 5 Susan Lin deposition." And, that is, we went two days of
- 6 the deposition and we did not have a production of the
- 7 relevant Standard Operating Procedures with the revisions
- 8 and things like that. That was in March, March 12th and
- 9 13th.
- We then came back on May 2nd and 3rd for two more days
- of those depositions. And they had produced to us some of
- 12 the relevant procedures, including revision dates. But the
- 13 way they would be produced is that we would send an e-mail
- 14 and say, "Look, we need this for Susan Lin. We need them
- 15 all, but we especially need this one and we're going to have
- 16 to move this deposition if we can't get them."
- So, one by one -- and I believe before the May 2nd and
- 18 3rd deposition we got a few of them. We did not get them
- 19 all. We do not still have the regulatory SOPs.
- 20 With respect to the design 30(b)(6) notice that is now
- 21 set for tomorrow and the next day, way back during the Lin
- 22 period we were saying with respect to the design, "We also
- 23 expect those as far as the version and the effective date of
- 24 the, each of the policies."
- We didn't hear anything. We didn't hear anything. I

- 1 started sending e-mail after e-mail saying, "Look, we're
- 2 getting closer to that. We need these. And I especially
- 3 need this." I responded to that index, but never intended
- 4 for that to be all of the policies because they told us that
- 5 that was only part of the list. So, I kept saying, "Where's
- 6 the other half?" or, "Is there another part of this index?
- 7 We need to look at that too."
- 8 We decided, look, we really can't move back these
- 9 depositions. We're already in May. And we've been arguing
- 10 about this since, you know, February when Dan Smith's
- 11 deposition was originally scheduled to go in March. But we
- 12 pushed it back.
- Now we're at the point where we have a part list of the
- 14 policies. We know that some of the policies have not been
- 15 produced, and we've told them that. We're going on an
- 16 e-mail by e-mail basis where they will produce things. I
- 17 kept saying, "Just -- when you get them all, just send them
- 18 to us."
- And by the time we filed our motion, we had never heard
- 20 anything but, "We're working on it." I've never -- I know
- 21 their motion seems to reflect that they had told us they
- 22 were coming, but we had never been told they were coming.
- 23 And I promise you faithfully I would not have filed the
- 24 motion if they had called.
- 25 And we sent the motion over to them before we filed it

- 1 and said, "Hey, take a look at this. We're going to file
- 2 this. But, you know, we want to give you a chance to talk
- 3 about it. The Dan Smith deposition is coming up. People,
- 4 we've got to get ready for this. We can't have happen again
- 5 what happened the first time." And we didn't hear anything
- 6 back from them.
- But if they had said, "Tom, we're getting ready to dump
- 8 on you, you know, two complete productions of 180 policies,"
- 9 then I would not have filed that, although I will say we're
- 10 still unclear on whether or not that is everything and
- 11 whether or not they're going -- they're still objecting to
- 12 letting the witness testify, I guess, to, to different
- 13 versions and things like that.
- And I will say, Your Honor, that's the other thing
- 15 that, that sort of put us in a, in a crummy position. And,
- 16 that is, ten days before this deposition -- I think it was
- 17 like five or six or seven days before Susan Lin's
- 18 deposition, after weeks of meeting and conferring on topics
- 19 and us agreeing to amend the topics, we get in both cases
- 20 objections and responses to our notice where there is an
- 21 objection to every single one of our topics and every single
- 22 one of the document requests. And these always come right
- 23 before the deposition when we've had meet-and-confers for
- 24 ages before that.
- So, I said to them, "Listen, I don't feel like we can

- 1 go forward with a deposition with all these objections here
- 2 because how do I know your witness or you are not going to
- 3 fall back on, even though (recording inaudible) on these
- 4 objections when you didn't -- how do I know that your
- 5 production is complete when you have all these objections?"
- 6 They wouldn't, they wouldn't withdraw those. So, we decided
- 7 we can't wait. We have to go forward.
- But with respect to the SOPs, I guess what we would
- 9 request the Court is for an order compelling them to produce
- 10 the SOPs related to the design and development. And I know
- 11 their motion says that they've produced 180 SOPs, but that's
- 12 just not true.
- 13 That 180 SOPs that I asked them -- agreed to look
- 14 through and tear down and asked them for included regulatory
- 15 SOPs, quality assurance SOPs, pharmacovigilance SOPs, and
- 16 SOPs from all different types of departments.
- So, there's really only 30 or 40 I would estimate -- I
- 18 haven't counted -- SOPs for the design and development
- 19 deposition that, you know, we would like to have. And we'd
- 20 like to have the dates because what happens is when we don't
- 21 have the dates and the effective dates and the revision
- 22 dates, then we say, "This happened in 2005. Which policy
- 23 applies?" And the witness says, as in New Jersey, you know,
- "I don't know if that was the policy in effect at the time."
- And they told us they were only going to let their

- 1 witnesses talk about the current policies. We said, "We
- 2 can't, we can't do that. We need all of them."
- 3 So, I guess we'd ask for an order compelling them to
- 4 produce the relevant design and development policies. We're
- 5 obviously not going to have them by the time of the
- 6 deposition because we can't -- Crivella cannot get them
- 7 downloaded in time and we won't be able to review them. But
- 8 an order telling them that the part list is not sufficient.
- 9 We need to see the rest of the list of the policies,
- 10 and then an order, I quess, that the witness can testify
- 11 about the policies, or they can definitely name somebody
- 12 else.
- And I've always said to them, "Look, you have
- designated Dan Smith for 30 subjects and on literally seven
- 15 products. And it's more than that because then you have the
- 16 TVT-L and TVT-Blue and things like that.
- So, I agree that it's extremely difficult for one human
- 18 being to memorize and know all this. And I said to them,
- 19 "I'm surprised that you really want to put one person up.
- 20 We will take the depositions of multiple people and we'll,
- 21 we'll get dates to you and we'll do this."
- But they've insisted on Dan Smith to do it all. And,
- 23 and now their argument is that it's so, such a big job
- 24 because there's so many policies for seven products and
- 25 different time periods stemming from 1998 to 2013 that they

- 1 can't do it.
- 2 So, I guess that's our request with respect to the
- 3 SOPs.
- 4 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. Just to make my
- 5 position clear, this motion was filed just a few days ago, a
- 6 few work days ago. It required an expedited hearing because
- 7 the deposition is tomorrow. I am not prepared sitting here
- 8 today to address motions to compel documents in the future.
- 9 That can be taken up at a later time. What I'm here today
- 10 at a quarter till five to do is figure out how I can help
- 11 you with your deposition tomorrow.
- 12 Now, I don't think what you're telling me is getting to
- 13 the crux of what I want to hear today. I understand you
- 14 haven't gotten documents you believe you're entitled to get.
- 15 And perhaps you are entitled to get them all and perhaps
- 16 that's the way the Court will order it to be done.
- But let's talk about the deposition tomorrow. Is that
- 18 deposition going to go forward?
- MR. CARTMELL: Yes.
- 20 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right. So, looking
- 21 at the SOPs and where you sit with them this afternoon for a
- 22 deposition that's tomorrow, tell me what I can do to help at
- 23 least narrow the issues or identify the issues so that when
- 24 you have someone testify tomorrow, we all know what they're
- 25 going to be testifying about. Let's start with A which is

- 1 the SOPs.
- 2 MR. CARTMELL: I, I guess to the extent that we
- 3 are able to, to find SOPs that the witness can testify about
- 4 the revisions -- I think the argument that they've made is
- 5 there's too much to talk about multiple revisions over
- 6 multiple years. That would be our only request, Your Honor.
- 7 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. And, and I've got
- 8 to tell you when I look at your notice, I do think that is a
- 9 very broad category, a very broad area, subject area. And I
- 10 don't, I don't really know exactly what it is you're aiming
- 11 for when you say you want someone to testify about the SOPs.
- 12 If you have the SOPs and you can read the SOPs, then
- 13 I'm certain that there are some things you don't need a
- 14 person to testify about. And maybe you can narrow your
- 15 questions a little bit more.
- I think what I can do with that one is order the
- 17 witness to testify, to the extent the witness can, about the
- 18 SOPs that have already been produced. I don't know what
- 19 else I can do. I mean, it's a very broad, it's a very broad
- 20 topic.
- 21 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, this is David Thomas.
- 22 And Ethicon is prepared to do that as long as the lack of
- 23 knowledge or perhaps even incorrect answers by the witness
- 24 about documents that he hasn't seen or hasn't been shown or
- 25 hasn't had a reasonable definition of what he's expected to

- 1 testify about, that that can't be imputed to the company as
- 2 a lack of knowledge or an incorrect answer.
- We, we want Dan Smith to be able to help them as best
- 4 as we can tomorrow. But the problem is with 181 SOPs and
- 5 with revision histories, it's thousands and thousands of
- 6 pages of documents. He's not going to know the answer to
- 7 all the questions. And we just don't want the company to
- 8 have to live with his answers on those questions.
- 9 And what I was going to ask for on this one and all the
- 10 others is because the way these depositions are taken, as
- 11 corporate representatives, these witnesses are being shown
- 12 documents and asked questions. And, obviously, their
- 13 answers bind the company.
- 14 And I think -- I believe, and the law requires, that
- 15 they describe with reasonable particularity those issues
- 16 they want this witness to be prepared to address so that he
- 17 can be prepared to address them. And the, the number of
- 18 documents in A and all the following categories are so
- 19 general in nature that no witness can be prepared on them.
- And, so, if we can help them with Dan Smith and not
- 21 bind the company to things where he just doesn't know,
- 22 because we just don't know what he's going to be asked about
- 23 them, that would be something we'd like to do.
- 24 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I don't, I don't
- 25 really -- I don't really know all of the history as to why

- 1 these SOPs haven't been produced before. I don't know if
- 2 they were asked to be produced at some point in the past or
- 3 whether the first time they ever came up was with these
- 4 notices of deposition. So, I don't really know the history.
- 5 MR. CARTMELL: Your Honor, I can answer that.
- 6 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: But before you answer
- 7 that, I think for tomorrow's purpose I cannot -- I certainly
- 8 cannot sit here and say that your corporate representative
- 9 is not going to bind the corporation. Obviously, the
- 10 corporate representative will bind the corporation.
- 11 That doesn't mean that you can't supplement answers or
- 12 have a supplemental deposition at which things are
- 13 clarified. But I think when he testifies about something,
- 14 he's going to bind the corporation.
- 15 I don't know how useful his testimony is going to be on
- 16 these SOPs tomorrow if the plaintiff hasn't received them in
- 17 time to even read them and there is 180 of them with 20 plus
- 18 revisions to each one. I, I really don't know how useful
- 19 this deposition is going to be.
- 20 But I'm not really hearing anything from you-all as to
- 21 how I can help make it anymore useful. I mean, I certainly
- 22 don't know what to tell you to do. It's -- you're,
- 23 you're -- I can tell you -- I can tell you, Mr. Cartmell,
- 24 your topics are very broad. And I think you're going to
- 25 have to narrow them down in some way. There's -- they

- 1 could, they just could cover virtually anything. I think
- 2 they're too broad.
- 3 Maybe part of the problem is you haven't read through
- 4 all of these SOPs yet and don't really know where your
- 5 questions are going to be. But that's going to have to
- 6 happen in the future.
- Now, tomorrow I think maybe you can just muddle through
- 8 the best you can and we can deal with the consequences of it
- 9 later because I don't -- I'm not hearing anything that's
- 10 going to help on, on topic A.
- 11 MR. CARTMELL: Okay. And I do think -- you have
- 12 helped and I, I think you're right. We, we will -- we're
- 13 not going to be able to see all the policies. I'm glad --
- 14 we did not know when we filed this if they were going to
- 15 produce those. And now they have been produced, so we do
- 16 have to look at them.
- And the only thing I'll say, Your Honor, is that we
- 18 have tried to specifically say, you know, B, design control
- 19 policies, I believe. And that is a limited number of things
- 20 like the policy on the SMEA, the DBSA. And those are the
- 21 only ones we want. And those are the ones that I know that
- 22 Dan Smith is very well familiar with.
- 23 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. Now, Mr., --
- MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, --
- 25 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: -- Mr. Thomas, have you

- 1 now produced all of the SOPs that have been requested or are
- 2 there still some out there?
- 3 MR. THOMAS: Can I give you a little bit of
- 4 history and give you a little longer answer than that?
- 5 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: If you don't make it too
- 6 long.
- 7 MR. THOMAS: I won't. I want to go home too.
- At plaintiffs' request, we gave them a spreadsheet of
- 9 documents on March the 28th of 891 documents from our
- 10 database that we were able to search and retrieve. And from
- 11 that, plaintiffs identified on April the 23rd, less than
- 12 three weeks ago, three weeks ago, a list of 181.
- So, it's been in the last three weeks that we've been
- 14 gathering the 181 documents and with all the history and all
- 15 the revisions that have been produced in the last two days,
- 16 Friday and Monday.
- 17 So, that's the history. It's been -- really, in the
- 18 last three weeks we've had a list to work from to make the
- 19 production.
- I'm advised today that we're confirming that we
- 21 produced all 181 and that there may be some that are
- 22 missing. And we're trying to confirm which are missing, and
- 23 we hope to follow up on that right away. But we, we cannot
- 24 confirm that all 181 that the plaintiffs requested have been
- 25 produced. There may be a few short. But we're trying to

- 1 fix that immediately.
- 2 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Have they now seen the
- 3 index for all of the ones that exist? Because I heard -- I
- 4 thought I heard Mr. Cartmell say that what you, what you
- 5 sent to him, this index or spreadsheet, didn't include all
- 6 of the SOPs that are out there. It was half of them or
- 7 something to that effect.
- 8 MR. THOMAS: I think that it's quite a bit more
- 9 than half. Here's the way it's been explained to me, Your
- 10 Honor. There's a database of documents at the company
- 11 called the adaptive database that contains almost 100,000
- 12 documents. The company does not maintain these documents
- 13 as, quote, SOPs. They have a bunch of different names.
- 14 So, in order to generate a list from which plaintiffs
- 15 could select the -- Mr. Watson can probably speak to this
- 16 better -- enter search terms in the database that would
- 17 generate the list of 891. And that was our best effort to
- 18 identify the universe of documents that might contain the
- 19 documents Mr. Cartmell would be interested in. And it's
- 20 from that list of 891 that we gave on March the 28th that
- 21 Mr. Cartmell on April 23rd gave us a list of 181.
- 22 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay.
- 23 MR. THOMAS: And, so, that's how we did it.
- 24 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right. Well, I
- 25 think, then, on that particular issue, as far as whether

- 1 there are still documents that haven't been produced, you
- 2 two are going to have to talk a little further on that and
- 3 decide what, if anything, is still out there.
- 4 As far as the deposition tomorrow, I think the witness
- 5 needs to try to answer to the best, to the, to the best
- 6 extent that he can the questions that are asked about the
- 7 SOPs that the plaintiff has reviewed and feels capable of
- 8 asking questions about.
- 9 So, we'll have to leave that one at that. And then
- 10 we'll just have to pick it up later as far as whether it
- 11 needs to be narrowed and, and that sort of thing. I, I
- 12 don't think there's anything else we can do for tomorrow.
- So, let's move on to B, which is the design history
- 14 files. What, what is the dispute that remains with that?
- 15 MR. CARTMELL: Your Honor, the dispute is we've
- 16 asked the witness to give testimony about the contents of
- 17 the design history file and to confirm that there is a
- 18 document that is a complete design history file.
- 19 And the reason we've asked specifically for that is
- 20 because we know from testimony that there is a file that
- 21 they keep in a, in a central file room that is called the
- 22 design history file for each product. Now, when we get it
- 23 produced to us, it comes all over the place. We don't get
- 24 it produced to us in consecutive Bates numbers in most
- 25 instances.

- And, so, what we'd like to do is simply have a witness
- 2 who can testify, "Here's the design history file for TVT-O.
- 3 This is the contents of that." And they have checklists.
- And, so, literally it would not be as burdensome as
- 5 saying, you know -- go through the checklist, but just to
- 6 say, "Is this the checklist?" Put a sticker on it. Say,
- 7 "This is the design history file for TVT-O." That exhibit
- 8 can then be -- that's an admission by the company that that
- 9 is it. That can then be used as an exhibit in all the
- 10 depositions.
- Obviously, there's a clip that can be played if we need
- 12 to at trial related to that so that we know because what
- 13 happens, we also know, is that with fact witnesses and
- 14 things, they will say, "I don't know that that's everything.
- 15 I don't know that that's, whether that's a draft or not."
- 16 And, and we get, we get produced multiple drafts of things.
- But we just want to nail down. That's all we're trying
- 18 to do. And we think it will promote judicial, you know,
- 19 efficiency and limit resources and we won't have to go take
- 20 as many depositions primarily if we can just get a corporate
- 21 witness to say, "This is the design history file for each of
- 22 the products."
- 23 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, that seems
- 24 reasonable.
- What's wrong with that, Mr. Thomas?

- 1 MR. THOMAS: Well, we've agreed to identify under
- 2 a sworn affidavit discovery response that this is the design
- 3 history file. What we don't want to have happen and what
- 4 we're trying to seek protection from is questions about the
- 5 entire design history file for this one witness because the
- 6 design history file is not something you're going to put one
- 7 bull clip on and mark and attach to a deposition. It's,
- 8 it's boxes and boxes of documents in a design history file.
- 9 And a design history file varies from product to product.
- 10 It's not going to be the same for each product.
- And, so, we will identify for them the Bates range of
- 12 documents that go in each design history file that we have.
- 13 And we think that is sufficient to identify that without a
- 14 witness being questioned about the contents of that file for
- 15 all of these products -- because for the same reason you
- 16 can't be prepared on the, the previous documents in category
- 17 A, a witness can't be prepared without anymore reasonable
- 18 particularity about all the documents in the design history
- 19 file.
- MR. CARTMELL: Can I respond, Your Honor?
- 21 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Yes.
- MR. CARTMELL: It, it shifts -- it -- there is a
- 23 design history file. It is not boxes and boxes and boxes of
- 24 things. I've seen them say that it's 10,000 pages. That is
- 25 true if you put every design history file together.

- 1 It's so frustrating because the design history file is
- 2 something that the FDA can come in and audit at any time.
- 3 And it's not in boxes and boxes of documents. It is a file.
- 4 It is in binders. It can be found like that. We can
- 5 identify it and put on a, a sticker on it. We know exactly
- 6 what is in it.
- 7 And we don't want to ask Mr. Smith about every single
- 8 page of those. That's not our plan. Our plan is to get a
- 9 document that the company who has by regulatory law the
- 10 responsibility to be able to identify the file. That's it.
- 11 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I don't -- yeah. I
- 12 don't --
- MR. THOMAS: And I don't, I don't see where we're
- 14 different.
- 15 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I, I think what
- 16 he's saying, Mr. Thomas, is he wants a witness to verify
- 17 what is the file for the record. He wants that to be
- 18 identified. He doesn't want to have to have 12 different
- 19 witnesses talk about what they think the file consists of.
- 20 He wants, he wants a corporate representative to say,
- 21 "This is the design history file. It's Bates numbers this
- 22 to this. And this is the file." And I don't think that's
- 23 unreasonable. They have, they have the right to know what
- 24 the corporation considers to be the design history file.
- 25 MR. THOMAS: And, and we're prepared to do that,

- 1 Your Honor. We're prepared to give them a corporate
- 2 representation that these Bates numbers of documents
- 3 constitute the design history file for each of these
- 4 products.
- 5 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right.
- 6 Mr. Cartmell, why is that not acceptable?
- 7 MR. CARTMELL: Well, I, I think it's different. I
- 8 don't think they want somebody on a video to say, "This is
- 9 the file." They want to give us an interrogatory and they
- 10 want to say, "That's match number X through X, and that's
- 11 match number X through X," so that we can maybe, yeah, take
- 12 that interrogatory response and try to use it with fact
- 13 witnesses.
- And, so, they have not given a corporate binding
- 15 statement of what it is because what happens there is that
- 16 we have to jump through all kinds of hoops. And what the
- 17 fact witnesses say is, "Look, I haven't looked through that.
- 18 I don't know if that's it. And, yeah, maybe they --
- 19 somebody signs that. I don't know who signs that. But in
- 20 order to say that that's it, I'd have to look through it."
- 21 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I thought, I
- 22 thought I just heard Mr. Thomas saying their witness would
- 23 be prepared to do this tomorrow.
- MR. CARTMELL: Oh, no. I think he's saying they
- 25 want to give us an interrogatory (recording inaudible).

- 1 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: No, I'm talking about --
- 2 what I'm talking about, I'm talking about the witness
- 3 tomorrow. That's all I'm talking about is what the witness
- 4 is going to be prepared to do tomorrow.
- Now, Mr. Thomas, will your witness be prepared to say
- 6 what are the design history files?
- 7 MR. THOMAS: No, he will not be able to identify
- 8 the Bates range of documents for the design history files
- 9 for the products at issue.
- 10 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: And why can he not do
- 11 that?
- 12 MR. THOMAS: Can I defer to Mr. Combs on that
- issue? He's been working with the witness on that today.
- 14 MR. COMBS: Judge, he would not be able to do that
- 15 because of the voluminous nature of it. I mean, it's,
- 16 it's -- you know, Mr. Smith as the corporate representative
- 17 for research and design is an engineer. He was not involved
- in collecting these documents, Bates stamping these
- 19 documents, or producing these documents.
- 20 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Mr. Combs, he doesn't
- 21 have to be --
- MR. COMBS: We don't object to doing what, what
- 23 the plaintiffs are asking, but it's going to be somebody
- 24 else. It's going to be, you know, someone like a litigation
- 25 paralegal who is going to sit there and who is going to

- 1 compare the Bates ranges and the produced versions and --
- 2 for each of the design history files.
- We're talking about six files, all of which are going
- 4 to have multiple volumes. We're talking about a very large
- 5 project. It's very -- you know, it's just not going to be
- 6 an easy thing. It's going to be thousands of pages of
- 7 material.
- 8 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Did somebody --
- 9 Mr. Cartmell, did you ever ask in a request for
- 10 production of documents for the design history file?
- 11 MR. CARTMELL: Yeah, we, we have asked for it, I
- 12 believe, in the attached duces tecum to this deposition.
- 13 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I mean prior to this
- 14 deposition, prior to the notice.
- MR. ALYSTOCK: Your Honor, Bryan Aylstock. Yes,
- 16 in our -- we did a comprehensive request for production back
- in July shortly after the discovery stay was lifted and we
- 18 asked for the complete design history file on every product
- 19 specifically.
- We also asked for the complete SOP with revision
- 21 histories. We've asked for complete IFUs, and we don't even
- 22 have the first IFU for the TVT.
- 23 So, everything that we're talking about here has been
- 24 asked for since July. And that's what's so frustrating.
- 25 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, then, I'm having

- 1 some, I'm having some trouble understanding why the
- 2 corporate representative is unable to say what Bates number
- 3 ranges are the design files. Somebody had to have collected
- 4 those and stamped them at some time in the past. It doesn't
- 5 have to be the witness who actually did it himself or
- 6 herself. The witness just has to know what they are.
- 7 MR. THOMAS: And, Your Honor, we're prepared to do
- 8 that, just not with this witness. We will give them an
- 9 affidavit saying, "This is the design history file. These
- 10 are the Bates ranges and numbers that are covered by that."
- 11 And that's the corporate representation that that's the
- 12 design history file for these products.
- MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I don't understand
- 14 why the witness can't do that. Now, I'm hearing you say the
- 15 witness is not going to be prepared to do that tomorrow.
- 16 And I think that is something that we'll have to address
- 17 later as far as whether that is going to mean that your
- 18 witness is not properly prepared because to me that doesn't
- 19 sound like it was an overwhelming task.
- If somebody put these things together almost a year
- 21 ago, somebody ought to be able to tell this man which files
- 22 are the design history files. I just don't understand why
- 23 this is so difficult.
- So, I don't know what to tell you about tomorrow. I, I
- 25 can't hardly compel him to have that information for you if

- 1 he doesn't have it tomorrow. I mean, I'm hearing Mr. Thomas
- 2 say he's not going to have it tomorrow.
- What I ultimately am going to need to hear from you-all
- 4 is whether that had been asked for in, in advance, whether
- 5 that is something they had enough time to put together. I
- 6 can't tell from topic B here whether, you know, that was
- 7 even within the, the range of what it was you were asking
- 8 for.
- 9 So, I think you've got some problems with these, these
- 10 topics being overly broad. I don't know how much time
- 11 you've given them to put this together. I think, though,
- 12 that the plaintiffs have every right to have a human being
- 13 say, "These numbers, these Bates stamp numbers are the
- 14 design file." I think they have every right. And they can
- do it that way rather than have it done in an interrogatory
- 16 if that's the way they want to do it. I don't think that's
- 17 that unreasonable.
- So, I'll tell you how I feel about that and that I
- 19 think we'll have to take up later what will happen about
- 20 this witness not being prepared to do it.
- Let's move on, then, to C, members of the product
- 22 development team.
- MR. CARTMELL: Your Honor, this is the same thing.
- 24 They, they don't want -- it just comes down to this. And we
- 25 have met and conferred about this until our, you know, your

- 1 head is blue, but we can't come to an agreement.
- 2 They don't want to have somebody on the record testify
- 3 and bind the company that these are people -- this is the
- 4 list of people that was involved with the product
- 5 development.
- Now, their responses said that we're asking for, you
- 7 know, dozens of names over dozens of years. And we're only
- 8 asking for product development team, which is a very narrow
- 9 period of time in each of these products, so that we don't
- 10 have to go from witness to witness and they tell us they
- 11 don't know or they give us one name and we try to figure out
- 12 who are the key people to depose.
- Our only interest in this is trying to narrow the scope
- 14 so we don't spin our wheels so we save time, efficiency
- 15 because we're trying to prepare seven cases for trial.
- 16 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Mr. Thomas.
- MR. THOMAS: Your Honor -- thank you, Your Honor.
- 18 We have produced the file information that identifies
- 19 everybody associated with the product. The problem is
- 20 "team" is overly broad. If they will allow us to identify
- 21 the key people, as they say, that's something we can do.
- The, the problem is binding the company to everybody on
- 23 the team. When people come in and out on projects over a
- 24 twelve-year period, it is really impossible to do. And we
- 25 could go through the documents just like the plaintiffs

- 1 could and list everybody who ever touched the product. I
- 2 don't think that's what the plaintiffs want.
- 3 We've given them the project leaders for each of the
- 4 products. They can identify from those people the people
- 5 who had relevant knowledge about the development or product
- 6 at a particular time.
- 7 But for us to be compelled to have a witness list all
- 8 the people that ever touched a product and bind the company
- 9 or have to testify about what each of those people did with
- 10 respect to the product in a particular time is, is
- 11 unreasonable. And unless they narrow it to a specific area
- 12 or specific responsibility, then it's, it's difficult or
- impossible for Dan Smith or anybody to do.
- 14 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I think, I think --
- MR. CARTMELL: Your Honor, --
- 16 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I think what you're
- 17 going to need to do with this one tomorrow is ask Mr. Smith
- 18 questions about how the team -- who comprises the team,
- 19 whether the team changes, just basic questions like that so
- 20 that there is some foundation to understand.
- 21 You know, frankly, it seems, it seems odd to me that
- you don't know who would be the members of a team that works
- 23 on your product. But I don't really know how complicated
- 24 this whole process is, and we don't have any testimony about
- 25 that at this point.

- So, why don't you go ahead, Mr. Cartmell, and ask
- 2 questions about that tomorrow and see what you can get. And
- 3 then --
- 4 MR. CARTMELL: I will do that. I appreciate that.
- 5 I would -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.
- 6 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Then you can come back.
- 7 I'm sure we're going to have to have another deposition. I
- 8 mean, obviously this witness is not going to be able to
- 9 answer all these questions. So, if you can't work out these
- 10 things before the next deposition, then you need to come
- 11 back sooner. Don't wait until three days before the
- 12 deposition. Come back sooner and then we can talk about
- 13 what to do.
- MR. CARTMELL: Okay. And I will say just with
- 15 respect to Susan Lin, I asked the same thing. We asked the
- 16 same thing. "Who are the members of the project teams from
- 17 the regulatory standpoint?" They gave us a list. I said,
- 18 "That's fine." We put a sticker on it. We marked it. I
- 19 said, "Is this the list?" She said, "Yes." And I moved on.
- 20 MR. COMBS: Well, Judge, -- this is Phil Combs. I
- 21 just want to point out that's very, very different to ask
- 22 who, who were the people from a specific department that
- 23 worked on a project -- product. That's very different than
- 24 asking Dan Smith who's everyone from the company that worked
- 25 on it which could involve multiple departments. You're

- 1 talking about, you're talking about a long list of people
- 2 that would have involvement, and that's why it's hard. It's
- 3 a lot of people.
- 4 MR. CARTMELL: It's just product development.
- 5 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I think what I'm
- 6 hearing, though, is that perhaps a lot of these issues will
- 7 be resolved when you get some testimony about them. You may
- 8 just be talking about completely different things. And, you
- 9 know, it's hard for me to tell that. But I'd say take a
- 10 stab at it tomorrow and then we'll see what else needs to be
- 11 done after this deposition is over.
- Now, the next one is I which would be all project names
- of TVT-O. Is that one resolved?
- MR. CARTMELL: We -- they've produced to us -- you
- 15 saw in the motion today, the response today or yesterday,
- 16 that for the first time, they gave us a list. They had told
- 17 us they would give us a list. I said, "Phil or Ben, please,
- 18 we need -- " same thing. "We need to have a live witness who
- 19 will tell us these are the names that can bind the company
- 20 and be able to tell us why, you know, why they're named this
- 21 or what it's for because that's discoverable. That's all we
- 22 want. We're not going to spend a lot of time on it."
- 23 And the response was, "We'll give you a list. We don't
- 24 want anybody live binding the corporation on a video saying,
- 25 'Here's the names of the products.'" The only reason we're

- doing this is to save time so we know our reviewers can look
- 2 and say, "Oh, the TVT-Star is actually the TVT-O, or TVT-U
- 3 is actually the TVT-Secur and here's what it means and here
- 4 are all the names." That's all we want." And they don't
- 5 want to have somebody on video bind the corporation on that.
- 6 MR. THOMAS: I think we've said so in our
- 7 response. We've given you the list and we've said that the
- 8 corporate (recording inaudible) summary is the (recording
- 9 inaudible) accurate. That's what you want, isn't it?
- MR. CARTMELL: Well, now, but then over multiple
- 11 meet-and-confers that I would like to be able to say to the
- 12 witness, "TVT-Secur used to be called TVT-Universal. Why is
- 13 that, or what does that stand for?" Because what we've
- 14 found in these cases is that sometimes there's meaning
- 15 behind those, the names that are given. That's all I want.
- 16 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay. Well, let's,
- 17 let's see how that goes tomorrow. You know, I, I don't, I
- don't quite understand the reservation on the part of the
- 19 defendant to bind the corporation. The corporation is going
- 20 to have to have a position, and somebody's going to have to
- 21 testify to that position. I don't think you're going to be
- 22 able to defend the case by producing a document every time
- 23 there's an issue that comes up. I mean, there's going to
- 24 have to be testimony. And that's the whole purpose of the
- 25 30(b)(6) deposition.

- So, I don't, I do not understand why you're not going
- 2 to be prepared to have this person say, "These are the names
- 3 of the projects." I mean, honestly, that just doesn't make
- 4 any sense to me. But maybe, maybe your witness will be
- 5 ready to do that.
- 6 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, I think you misunderstood
- 7 me. The witness will testify that those are the names of
- 8 the product. He will bind the company to that tomorrow.
- 9 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: All right. Why don't
- 10 we, why don't we start with that and see where that goes.
- 11 Let's move on, then, to S which is the patents. And if
- 12 I understood you, that one you think you have worked out.
- 13 Is that correct?
- MR. CARTMELL: I think there will be maybe an
- 15 issue later, Your Honor, but I think we should do like you
- 16 have suggested and see what comes up. And if it is an issue
- 17 later and can't be worked out, we'll take that up later.
- 18 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Yeah. Let me say this
- 19 to the defendants. I do agree with you that these topics
- 20 are extremely broad. I, I understand the position the
- 21 plaintiff is in because they probably don't have enough
- 22 discovery yet to make these, these topics more narrow. But
- 23 these are very broad topics and I can understand the problem
- 24 the defendant is having with these topics.
- 25 Having said that, that's really only important when it

- 1 comes down to sanctions for offering a witness who's not
- 2 prepared. That's why I'd like to go tomorrow and see how
- 3 much you can (recording inaudible).
- 4 And if there are some really obvious things that your
- 5 witness should have been prepared to answer and couldn't,
- 6 then that's going to be a different story. If there's just
- 7 some confusion about what all these topics involve, then I'm
- 8 going to take that into consideration as well.
- 9 MR. CARTMELL: Okay. And we will seek to --
- 10 because of what you've said, we're going to try to narrow it
- 11 down. And I think patents is one place we already have
- 12 narrowed it, you might have seen from the response, but
- 13 we'll do it further.
- 14 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Yes. I think it needs
- 15 to be narrowed on your notice because the witness -- they
- 16 have to identify the best witness to represent the
- 17 corporation. They have to know what you're going to ask
- 18 about. If there is a universe of 5,000 sub topics under one
- of these topics, then there's no way they can have someone
- 20 adequately prepared to cover all of those things. So, I
- 21 think there's going to have to be some work on both sides
- 22 here is kind of what I'm seeing.
- 23 All right. The last --
- MR. CARTMELL: Then you're saying, Your Honor, --
- 25 pardon me. Just to clarify, are you saying we need to

- 1 re-issue the notice? Because what we have been doing is
- 2 just sort of by agreement from letters saying, "We will
- 3 narrow these topics." But we're fine with re-issuing --
- 4 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Yeah. I think what you
- 5 ought to do is take this deposition tomorrow, figure out how
- 6 these, how these topics can be (recording inaudible) or at
- 7 least how you can state them with a little more
- 8 particularity so that the defendant can pin down what it is
- 9 you're actually looking for, and re-issue them for the next
- 10 deposition because that way, we'll all be on the same page.
- 11 MR. CARTMELL: Okay.
- 12 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: The last, the last
- 13 category that I have as there being an issue is the design
- 14 control and validation manufacturing processes. Where are
- 15 we with that one?
- 16 MR. CARTMELL: I, I believe from plaintiffs'
- 17 perspective, same thing, Your Honor. We should go take the
- 18 deposition and the -- it's a degree issue. They, they have
- 19 said Dan Smith will only be prepared to talk about it from a
- 20 10,000-foot perspective, and they may need somebody else to
- 21 talk in more detail about it. That's where our argument
- 22 was.
- 23 I just wanted to know -- and if there was another
- 24 designee, I wanted them to designate that because if we get
- 25 into this and our expert reports are due, we're sort of

- 1 running out of time.
- 2 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: I understand. I
- 3 realize, you know -- I, I sympathize with you people because
- 4 you are on such a tight schedule and there is so much work
- 5 to do. I don't know how you're doing it. And I feel really
- 6 badly for you. But, having said that, you know, I want to
- 7 try to do what I can to move the discovery on.
- If you go ahead, Mr. Cartmell, and take this deposition
- 9 tomorrow, maybe you'll be in a better position and you two
- 10 will be able to work out a lot of these issues.
- MR. CARTMELL: I do too. If you don't mind, I'd
- 12 like to say one thing because it just, it's -- look -- and I
- 13 think we're working well together and I don't blame -- you
- 14 know, there's nothing here that I'm saying, nor any of us
- 15 are saying, that is the fault of, of counsel. You know, a
- 16 lot of stress is really going into this issue of deposition
- 17 scheduling.
- And, you know, for example, because we have seven
- 19 products that we're trying to cover with Dan Smith. And
- 20 they've identified him for 30 topics and we thought we would
- 21 get, you know, a different witness on each topic.
- We're never going to get done with this witness in four
- 23 days. I mean, I can just tell you -- I know in New Jersey,
- 24 Scott Ciarrocca, who was their 30(b)(6) on a lot of these
- 25 same topics, one product was a three-day deposition.

- 1 And you have expressed, Your Honor, and I totally 2 understand it, that you're concerned about these, the length of these depositions. And I, I guess I'm just bringing it 3 4 up because I'm so concerned and nervous that we're going to 5 be in a situation when we are supposed to, as fiduciaries on 6 behalf of these thousands of cases across America, be trying 7 to complete these depositions on six topics, six cases the 8 people around America have, and we're going to finish this 9 two days -- and I've sent them probably four e-mails saying, 10 "Can you get me two more days for Dan Smith?" because I know 11 what's going to happen. We're not going to get Dan Smith 12 day three and four until July. Then we're not going to 13 finish with Abbrevo and Exact. And we're not going to get 14 days five and six until August and our reports are due. 15 And I'm just so -- I've got to be honest with you. I'm 16 freaked out about this. Our scheduling is a major problem 17 for this. And maybe it's something we can talk to you when 18 we come to West Virginia about next week. 19 But I do want to have this sort of the center of the 20 universe in the MDL, Bryan and Renee and I do. We have other lawyers from state courts saying, "Let us take these, 21 22 you know, depositions here, you know, if they're going to 23 not give you dates there." And we're trying like crazy to 24 avoid that.
- We don't -- we agree with Judge Goodwin that two bites

- of the apple is not good. But we're also concerned as heck
- 2 that -- from your perspective, I understand. It can look
- 3 like four days with one witness is crazy. But from our
- 4 perspective, it's seven cases and 30 topics.
- 5 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I understand,
- 6 yeah.
- 7 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, just to shortcut this --
- 8 Tom, you need to read your e-mails. We've, we've
- 9 offered you two days in early June for, to come back and
- 10 complete Mr. Smith.
- 11 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: And, you know, maybe,
- 12 maybe tomorrow you'll figure out that there are some other
- 13 people that you need as well and you can get those
- 14 scheduled. I definitely think we ought to talk about this
- 15 next week because you are on such a tight schedule.
- And I realize that there is a lot of information out
- 17 there. There's a lot of work on both sides to get the
- 18 documents produced. And it's a crazy, crazy schedule, no
- 19 doubt about it. But maybe if we sit down, we can try to
- 20 figure out some ways to expedite it.
- I understand the depositions are going to be long but,
- 22 you know, four days, I don't know how you're ever going to
- 23 use that when the whole trial is only going to be twelve.
- 24 So, --
- 25 MR. CARTMELL: Well, no, I know. And, you know,

- 1 when you think about it, less than -- you're talking about
- one trial. We're talking about trying to discover seven
- 3 trials --
- 4 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Right, right.
- 5 MR. ALYSTOCK: We don't yet know what product it
- 6 is. And we had talked about narrowing the products and
- 7 kicking some of the products down the line.
- 8 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Right.
- 9 MR. ALYSTOCK: But that -- we weren't able to
- 10 reach an agreement on that. So, I think the idea of maybe
- 11 just sitting down with your help -- I think this call was
- 12 very helpful, Judge, and I appreciate you doing that on
- 13 short notice.
- 14 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, certainly. I want
- 15 to help you. And you'll have to understand that I, I'm not
- 16 going to have the history that you-all have had and I
- 17 don't -- so, it's harder for me to judge whether somebody's
- 18 not working as well as they should or, you know, whether
- 19 somebody's just asking for more than anybody could provide.
- So, it helps me to hear some of this history. But it's
- 21 hard to do that when we're, when we're trying to do it, you
- 22 know, this late in, in the deposition schedule.
- So, why don't you --
- 24 MR. CARTMELL: I apologize. We probably -- I
- 25 mean, in retrospect -- we've talked about it. It was three

- 1 days before. I honestly thought we'd send it over there and
- 2 we'd maybe dialogue some more and maybe some of the things
- 3 wouldn't come up.
- 4 But I personally may have made statements that I'm
- 5 going to file a motion to compel, and they -- probably
- 6 multiple times. And they probably thought I was such a
- 7 wussy, and I did. And I probably -- you know, we've worked
- 8 on this. I'm glad we did because we got some documents
- 9 today. But I hear you loud and clear that it cannot be a
- 10 situation when it's this close to the deposition. I get
- 11 that.
- 12 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, and, you know, I
- 13 mean, under the case law, if you hadn't filed the motion to
- 14 compel and they showed up and they weren't prepared, then
- 15 they would have had a problem because they didn't file a
- 16 motion for protective order. So, --
- 17 MR. CARTMELL: I know. And I've seen your case
- 18 law on that.
- 19 MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Yes. So, I think -- I'm
- 20 not sure of the strategy to file the motion to compel is
- 21 good if you really want to have a useful deposition. And I
- 22 think with the time frame, you have to do that. You know,
- 23 on the flip side, if you just want to set up the defendants,
- 24 you just don't say anything and let them not be prepared.
- 25 But I'm glad you're not doing that because I think it's

```
1
    better to try to work this out ahead of time so that these
2
    depositions do, are, are useful in some way. You don't have
3
    the time to take them four and five times, do you?
 4
              MR. CARTMELL: No, we don't.
5
              MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Okay.
6
              MR. CARTMELL: We don't have the stamina, Judge.
 7
              MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Well, I will be around
8
    tomorrow. If something comes up at the deposition and you
9
    need help, you can just call me.
10
              MR. CARTMELL: Okay. Thank you very much for your
11
    time. We appreciate it.
12
              MAGISTRATE JUDGE EIFERT: Thank you. Thank
13
    you-all. Bye-bye.
14
          (Proceedings concluded)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
```

```
1
               I, Lisa A. Cook, Official Reporter of the United
 2
     States District Court for the Southern District of West
     Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
 3
 4
     correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the
     record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
 5
6
 7
 8
            s\Lisa A. Cook
                                                   May 24, 2013
9
                Reporter
                                                          Date
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```